

OLAVINLINNA (OLOFSBORG) CASTLE

F I N L A N D
S U O M I

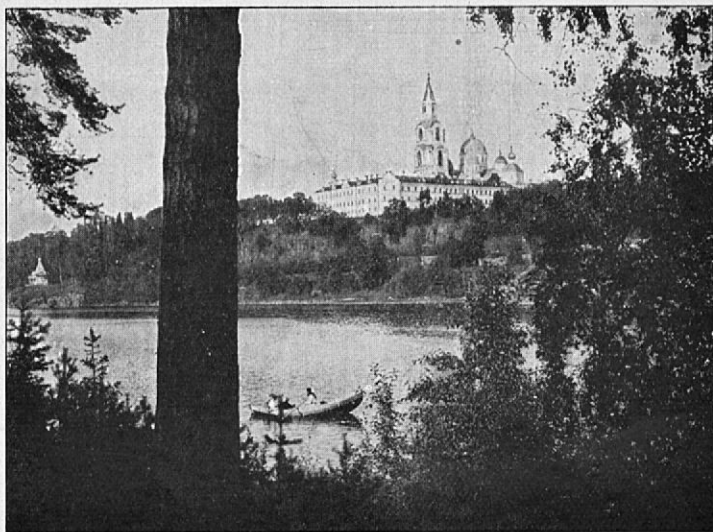
1927



VIEW OF LAKE SAIMAA

The stream of tourist traffic has begun to find its way to the northern countries in ever increasing volume, and he who desires a real change, who longs to get away from all the commonplace and enjoy new scenes, and to rest his nerves in the bosom of unspoilt nature, cannot do better than choose *Finland* as his goal. Finland combines many of the advantages of the great European countries, e. g. good communications and hotels, with the charms of the new and unknown: light summer nights, boundless forests, smiling lake scenery, rushing rivers and foaming rapids.

Finland, in Finnish *Suomi*, lies between 60° and 70° north latitude. It belongs geographically, geologically and in its flora and fauna to *northern Europe* (*Fenno-Skandia*). Its area (150,005 square English miles) is larger than that of the British Isles, and its length from the southernmost point to the coast of the Arctic Ocean is over 600 geographical miles. Land occupies 88.5 % of the area of the country, while 11.5 % consists of water. Finland is bounded on the south and west by the *Baltic Sea* and its big arms, the *Gulf of Finland* and the *Gulf of Bothnia*. In the northwest it has a frontier against *Sweden*, and in

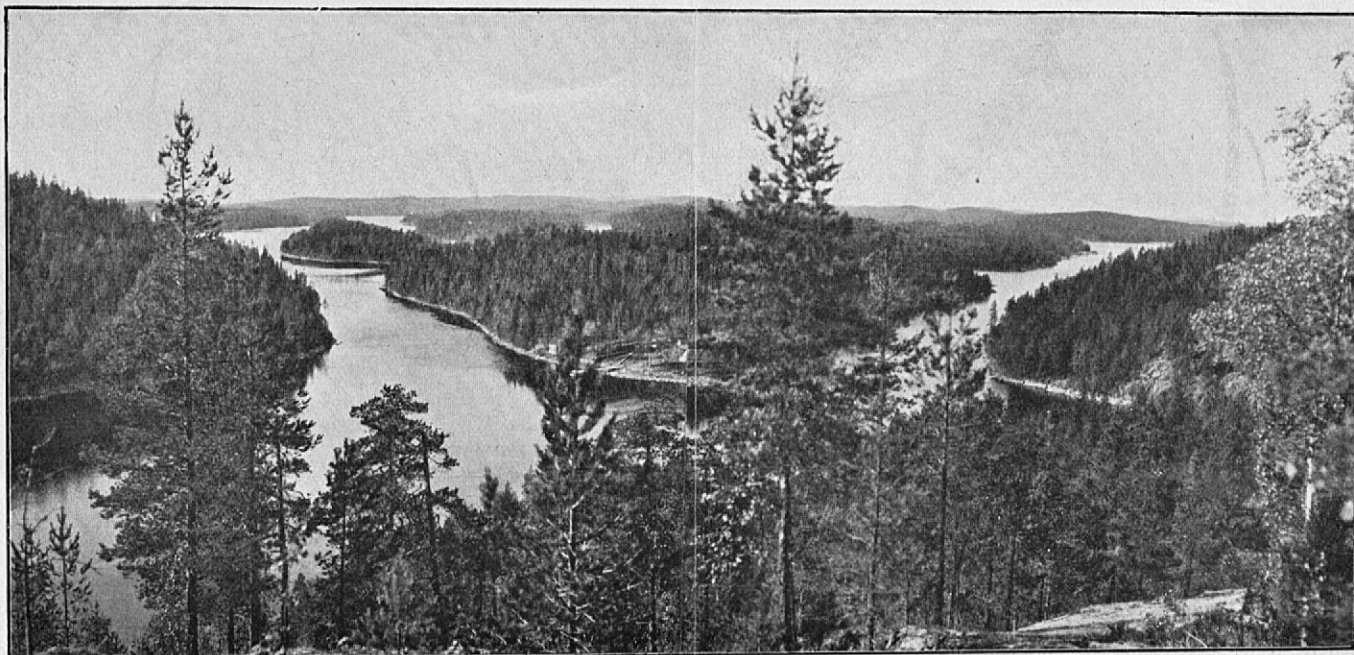


WALAMO, THE MONASTERY AND CHURCH

the north, where it stretches to the Arctic Ocean, against *Norway*. Its eastern frontier is against *Russia*.

The *population*, about 3.4 million, consists principally of *Finns* (88.7 %) of *Swedes* on the south and west coasts (11 %), and of a few *Lapps* in the far north. Country dwellers form 83 % of the population and town dwellers only 17 %.

The *south* and *west* of Finland is a low-lying region. These parts are the most thickly populated and contain the oldest settlements. The coasts are fringed by the most numerous *archipelago* in the world, containing more than 30,000 islands: big islands near the coast, which are fertile and well wooded, beyond them smaller islands with stunted trees, and farthest out in the open sea barren, seawashed rocks and skerries. The archipelago is densest in the southwest, where its islands form one continuous bridge between the mainland and the *Åland Islands*. To the *north* and *east* the country is more broken and there is less cultivated land. In the *far north* the scenery consists of wild fells. The middle of the country is characterised by a peculiar *network of land and water*. Finland has been called in song and story



KOUKUNVIRTA (HEINÄVESI)

the »land of a thousand lakes», but in actual fact the »thousand lakes» number at least *thirty-five thousand*. The *Saimaa* water system alone, in the east, comprises over 8,000 lakes, which occupy an area of nearly 7,000 square kilometres. The *Saimaa* waters form together a navigable waterway over 300 km. long, and are moreover connected by canals with other equally long successions of lakes. There are similar great water systems also in the middle and west of Finland, the *Päijänne* system and the *Tavastland* (Häme) lakes. Further north the lakes are fewer, but mighty rivers take their place.

Owing to its proximity to the sea, its lakes and forests, its low elevation above sea level, and also to the favourable winds and nearness of the Gulf Stream, advantages common to the whole of northern Europe, Finland has, in spite of its northerly situation, a comparatively *mild climate*. The average temperature of the coldest month is -6° Centigrade in the

south and -15° in Lapland. The average of the summer months is $+15^{\circ}$ in the south and $+13^{\circ}$ in Lapland. In the south the ground is covered with snow on an average for 100 days in the year, in central Finland for 150, and in Lapland for 210 days. The winters are not too cold to allow of winter sports being practised in the open air throughout the cold season. The *air* is dry and pure.

Finland became an independent state in 1918, after a long struggle for freedom, and has now a *republican constitution*. The President is elected for six years. The Diet consists of a Single Chamber with 200 members, elected by universal suffrage. There is compulsory military service, and in addition a voluntary civic guard, called the »Defence Corps»; of over 100,000 men.

Finland has three universities, founded respectively in 1640, 1917 and 1920. Only 0.8 % of the population over 15 years of age is illiterate.



VIEW IN THE ARCHIPELAGO

The principal occupation of the country is *agriculture*, which employs 65 % of the population. *Shipping* and *manufactures* are of considerable importance. The gross value of the goods manufactured amounts to over 10,000 million marks. Finland contains more *forests* than any other country in Europe, and its manufactures are accordingly mainly such as utilise wood. The principal industries are *sawing* and *paper-making*. The Kymmene paper mills are the biggest in Europe. About 3 million cubic metres of unsawn and 4.8 million cubic metres of sawn timber are exported annually.

There are communications to all parts of the country by means of a widely-ramified system of *railways* (4,778 km.) and *highroads*, and several thousand kilometres of *steamer routes*. The means of communication are modern and comfortable. A mode of travel peculiar to Finland is to be found in the river boats which *shoot the rapids*, guided by certificated steersmen.

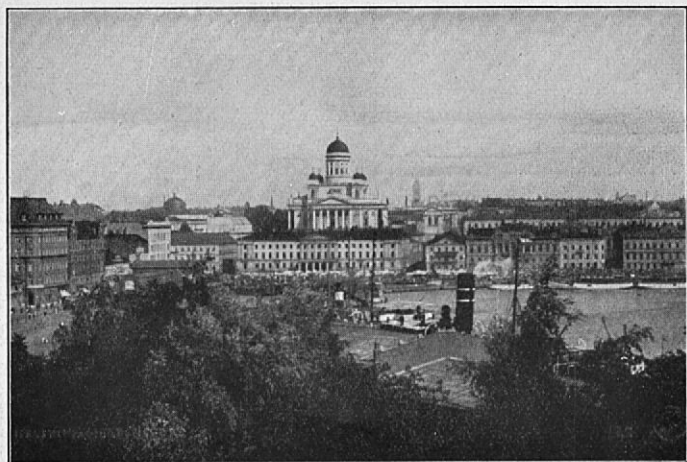
Helsinki (Helsingfors), the capital of Finland, is most picturesquely situated on a peninsula which juts out into the Gulf of Finland, and is surrounded on three sides by island-studded arms of the sea. The



HELSINKI, MAIN ENTRANCE TO CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION

entrance to the port, between the granite rocks and ramparts of the old fortress of *Suomenlinna* (Sveaborg), is of amazing beauty. The town has 220,000 inhabitants and is the seat of the Government, the Diet and the central Government departments, and also contains the biggest university, museums, picture galleries, etc.

The grandest scenery that Finland possesses is mostly in the interior, in the east and centre of the country. A circular tour to the spots best worth visiting can be made in about 10 days. In the east there is *Viipuri* (Viborg), with its ancient castle, the famous cataract of *Imatra*, which has a bigger volume of water than any other in Europe, the extensive *Saimaa* waters with the imposing mediæval fortress of *Olavinlinna* (Olofsborg), and the curious *Punkaharju* esker, which is 7 km. long but only a couple of hundred metres wide, washed by lakes on both sides, and presents the lake scenery of Finland in its most typical and perfect beauty. Still further to the east rise the heights of *Koli* in a wild and desolate forest region, and in the north there is the *Oulu* (*Ule*) river, with the famous passage down its rapids. In *Lap-*



PANORAMA OF HELSINKI (HELSINGFORS)

land, again, the scenery is quite different, consisting of endless wastes and fells, huge rivers with foaming rapids and high waterfalls. The midnight sun may be seen at midsummer without going any further north than the terminus of the railway system, *Rovaniemi*. *Western Finland*, again, has in the interior *Tampere* (Tammerfors), the principal manufacturing town, and the lovely *Tavastland* lakes, and on the coast the town of *Turku* (Åbo), the former capital, with its venerable cathedral, its twelfth-century castle, and Finnish and Swedish universities.

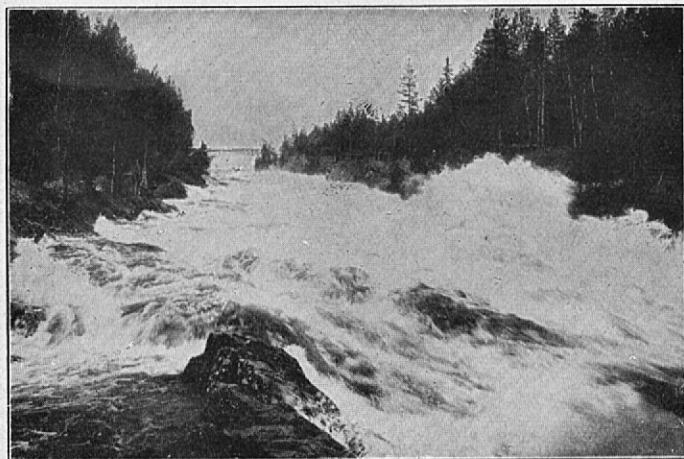
It is easy to combine a trip to Finland with a tour to the other northern countries. It is only a twelve hours journey from Stockholm to Åbo, two days from Copenhagen to Helsingfors. The passage is made in modern, comfortably fitted passenger boats.

The best season for visiting Finland is from the middle of June to the end of August.

DIRECT ROUTES TO FINLAND

From *England*: by Finnish boats which run once a week from *Hull* to *Helsingfors* or *Hangö*. Agents John Good and Sons, Hull.

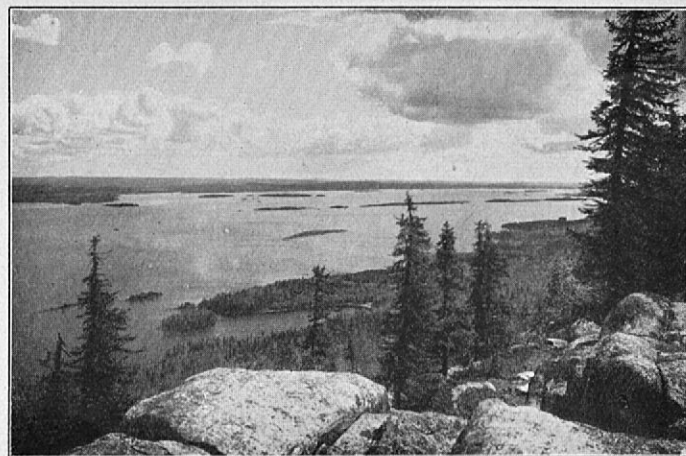
From *Denmark*: by Finnish boats which run once



IMATRA RAPIDS

a week from *Copenhagen* to *Helsingfors* or *Hangö*. Agents Franck and Tobiesen, Copenhagen.

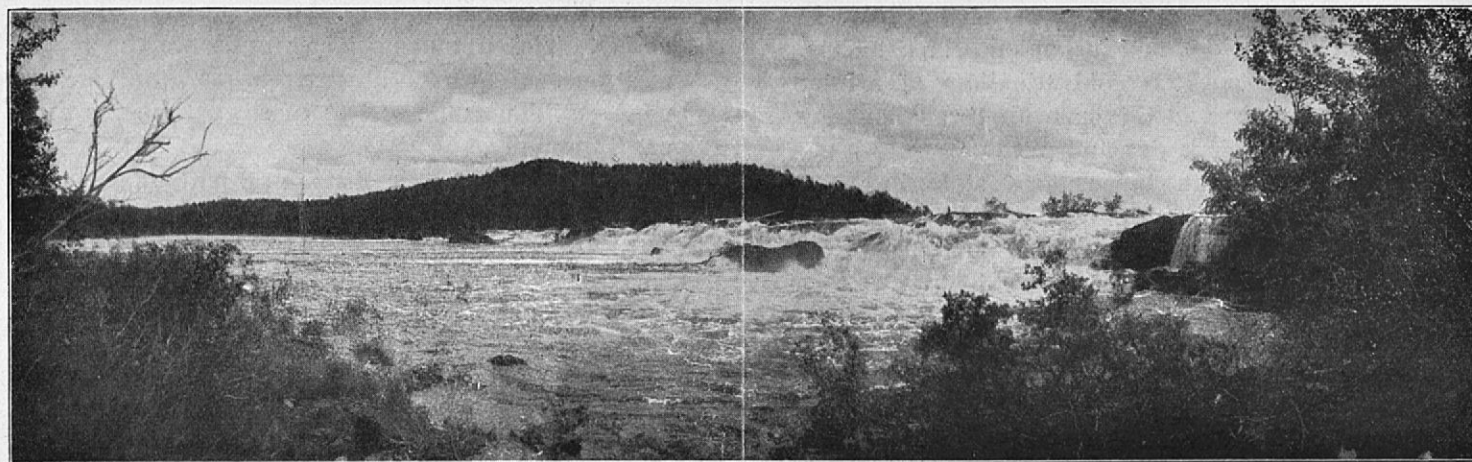
From *Sweden*: by Finnish or Swedish boats which run twice a week from *Stockholm* to *Helsingfors* and six times a week from *Stockholm* to *Åbo*. Agents: A/B Nyman & Schultz; Aug. Lindholms Eft., Stockholm.



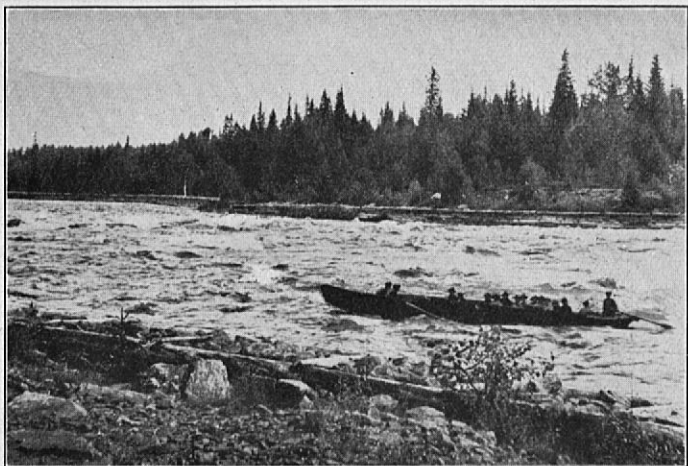
VIEW FROM KOLI

From *Germany*: from *Stettin* to *Helsingfors* or *Hangö* by Finnish or German boats twice a week in the summer and once a week in the winter. From *Lubeck* to *Helsingfors* or *Hangö* by Finnish boats, once a week. Agents: Piel & Fehling, Lubeck; Gustav Metzler and Rud. Christ. Griebel, Stettin.

Via *Esthonia*: (through sleeping cars Paris-Berlin-



MÄNNIKKÖ (MENIKKA) WATERFALL IN LAPLAND



SHOOTING THE RAPIDS

Riga, Ostend-Berlin-Riga, Warsaw-Zengale-Riga and Riga-Reval) by Finnish boats every other day from *Reval* to *Helsingfors*. Agents: Carl F. Gahlnbäck, Reval.

It is also possible to conclude a tour through Finland by returning home via Tornio and Haparanda and northern Sweden, or through Finnish Lapland, where a new route has been opened to the Arctic coast, to the North Cape and the Norwegian fjords.

Further information will be given, and tours sketched free of charge, by the Tourist Association of Finland, P. Esplanaadinkatu (N. Esplanadgatan) 21, Helsingfors, which also sells guidebooks and maps of Finland. Foreign orders can be sent by post.

